

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 125

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Halden W. Hooper,
winner of the 2005 Stellar Tribute Award.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is pleased to specially recognize those admirable Tennesseans who have risen to great heights in their chosen professions and who have contributed their time and resources in service to their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is former Gallatin physician Dr. Halden W. Hooper, who has been honored with the 2005 Sumner Foundation's Stellar Tribute Award; and

WHEREAS, the Stellar Tribute Award is given annually by the Sumner Foundation to those in the Sumner County area who have made significant contributions to their community, those who give freely of their time, talents, and financial resources to make Sumner County a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, a physician who has offered invaluable service to countless community organizations over the past forty years, Dr. Hooper has been a role model for anyone wishing to better the world around them; and

WHEREAS, born on a farm in Bakerville in Humphreys County, Dr. Hooper was educated in the public school system in Humphreys County and, upon graduating, received a scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee Medical School and, after receiving his medical degree, he completed his internship at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooper served as a valued physician in Sumner County for more than thirty-five years before retiring; he served as a Family Practitioner in Gallatin from 1963 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, during this time as a practitioner, he attained various certifications and honors, including being chosen as a Fellow and Life Member of the American Academy of Family Physicians; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man held an interest in geriatric medicine and thanatology throughout his years of medical practice; his endless devotion to helping those nearing the end of life eased an untold amount of suffering in his community; and

WHEREAS, through his guest lecturership in a Death and Dying class at Volunteer State Community College for the past twenty-six years and through various papers he has presented to medical and nursing organizations, Dr. Halden Hooper has proven his commitment to the Hospice concept of care for the terminally ill. Dr. Hooper has promoted the possibility of approaching the end of life with dignity and has provided relief from mental and physical pain and suffering within the boundaries desired by the patient, without the use of heroic measures to prolong the dying process against a patient's wishes; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooper's service as a physician is overshadowed only by his service to various charitable organizations throughout his life and he has gained many awards and honors reflecting his dedication to service, including the Lion of the Year award, 1963; the Grand Master's Award for Community Service by the King Solomon Lodge of Gallatin, 1997; the Key to the City of Gallatin, 1997; the Order of the Horse Award, 2000; and the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy by the Tennessee Board of Regents, 2003; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in medicine, Dr. Hooper served with distinction as Medical Director of Ramsey Memorial Hospice, now Sumner Hospice, from its inception in 1987 to 1999; as Medical Director of Brandywood Nursing Home and Gallatin Healthcare Associates for two decades; as Chief of the Medical Staff of the original Sumner Memorial Hospital; and as President and Secretary-Treasurer of Sumner County Medical Society; and

WHEREAS, his proven leadership is shown by his service on numerous boards over the years, including the Sumner Foundation, the Sumner County Board of United Way, the Nashville Area Red Cross, and the Boards of Directors for Sumner Regional Health Systems and Volunteer State Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooper feels an obligation to give back to the community he loves, and he does so by spending countless hours in his car visiting friends to raise money for the Volunteer State Foundation, teaching underprivileged children about anatomy and physiology to spark their interest in a medical career, and funding his own endowment for college scholarships for future generations of students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooper is deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding professional is most grateful for the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-five years, Betty Hu Sin Hee, and their six children, Karen Lynn Phillips, Dr. Patricia Lee Hooper, Priscilla Ann Stoddard, Dr. H. Wayne Hooper, Dr. William Hee Hooper, and Tammy Susan Freehling. The Hoopers are delighted to have sixteen grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this truly outstanding man who leads a life of purpose and devotion to others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Halden W. Hooper on his reception of the 2005 Stellar Tribute Award and thank him for his many years of exemplary service to Sumner County and the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Dr. Halden W. Hooper our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.